13

The humble PETITION OF

The Gentry, Miniſters, and Freeholders of the County of *York*, aſſembled at the Aſſizes there holden.

Preſented to His MAJESTIE the 5. of April 1642.

Together with His Majeſties Speech at the preſenting thereof.

And His gracious Anſwer thereunto.

YORK:
Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſtie: And by the Aſſignes of JOHN BILL.
1642.

TRINITY COLLEGE
LIBRARY,
CAMBRIDGE

C

YORK:
Printed by ROBERT BARNARD, Printer
to the Kings most Excellent Majestie: And
by the Assignes of JOHN BILL.
1642.

TO THE KINGS *MOST EXCELLENT* MAJESTIE.

The humble Petition of the Gentry, Miniſters, and Freeholders of the County of *York*, now aſſembled at the Aſſizes there holden,

Moſt humbly ſheweth,

THat, although the piercing anguiſh of our Souls, proceeding from the generall diſtractions of this Kingdom, be eaſed by the comfort of your Majeſties Royall Preſence, and gracious Confidence in the Affections of this County, which hath filled our Hearts with Hopes, and our Tongues with Joy, yet the fellow-feeling of the

paſſionate Sorrows, and heart-breaking Apprehenſions which overwhelms the other parts of this afflicted Kingdom, do inforce us (after the humble tender of our Lives and Fortunes, for the Safety and Aſſurance of your Majeſties Royall Perſon, Crown, Honour and Eſtate, juſt Prerogative and Soveraignty, in any capacity wherein we may ſerve your Majeſtie according to the Laws) to follow that Sacrifice of bounden duty, with our earneſt Prayers and Petitions, which ſhall not cry in your Princely Ears for help to almoſt-ruined *Ireland*, nor implore your Majeſties Concurrence for the propagation of the Proteſtant Religion, and ſuppreſſion of Popery, ſince your Majeſties Gracious Declaration of your Self, in thoſe particulars, renders it an unpardonable Crime to deſire further Aſſurance, or Addition to your Majeſties own words Sacred before God and Man; But emboldned by your Royall Reſolution declared, to take away not onely the juſt Feares, but alſo the Jealouſies of your lov-

all Subjects, and inforced by that infallible Oracle of Truth, That, *A Kingdom divided cannot ſtand*; we, from the center of every one of our hearts, moſt earneſtly ſupplicate, That your Majeſtie (being moſt intereſſed in the flouriſhing State and Union of your Dominions, and by long experience in Government, beſt acquainted with Prevention of Dangers, and Remedy of Evils) will be graciouſly pleaſed to declare ſuch fit Means and Expedients as may take away all Diſtances and Miſ-underſtandings betwixt Your Majeſtie and Your great Councell; to whom we will alſo addreſſe our ſelves for ſuch endeavours, on their parts, as may beget in Your Majeſtie a confidence in their Councels, and that bleſſed Union ſo neceſſary to this perplexed Kingdom, and moſt deſired by us, and all Your Majeſties loving and faithfull Subjects.

And your Petitioners ſhall ever pray for your Majeſties long and proſperous Reign, &c.

DIEV ET MON DROIT

5° Aprilis, 1642.

His Majesties Speech to the Sheriffe, Gentry, Ministery, and Freeholders of the County of *York*, when they presented to Him their Petition.

Mr. Sheriffe, and Gentlemen,

I Beleeve you expect not a present and particular Answer to your Petition, because it is new unto me: Onely in generall I must tell you, That I see by it, that I am not deceived in the Confidence I have in the Affections of this County to my Person and State; and I assure you that

that I will not deceive your Confidence which at this time you have declared in your Petition, to have in me: And I am glad to see that it is not upon mistaken Grounds, as other Petitions have been to me since I came to this place: Concerning which, let me observe unto you, That my Answers were to cleer those mistakings; for I never did goe about to punish or discourage them from petitioning to me in an humble way, though the subject did not agree with my Sense; Albeit within the memorie of man, people have been discouraged, and threatned to be punished for Petitions.

I observe that your Petition is so modest, that it doth not mention any particular for your own good; which indeed

indeed I expected, as knowing that in ſome particulars you have great reaſon to do; and therefore, that you may not fare the worſe for your Modeſty, I will put you in minde of three particulars, which I conceive to be for the good of this Country.

The firſt is concerning your trained Bands, to reduce them to a leſſer number, for which, I confeſſe to ſtand engaged by promiſe to you, which I had performed long ſince, if I had been put in minde of it: And now I tell you, Shew me but the Way, and (when you ſhall think fit) I ſhall inſtantly reduce them to that Number, which I promiſed you two yeers agoe.

The ſecond is, That which is owing to this County for Billet-money;

The truth is, That for the present I cannot repay it; Onely I will say this, That if all the Water had gone to the right Mill (upon my Word) you had been long agoe satisfied in this particular. And so I leave to your discretions which way you will advise, and assist me to comply with the Engagements to you in this point.

The third is, That for which I was petitioned as I came up the last yeer, both by the Lord Major and Aldermen of this City, and likewise by divers others of this County, as I went South-ward; And that is, concerning the Court of York. *And first let me tell you, That as yet I know no Legall Dissolution of it, for hitherto formally there is nothing*

thing come to me, either directly or indirectly, for the taking of it away: therefore I may say, It is rather ſhaken in pieces, then diſſolved. Now my Deſire is, in complyance to what I anſwered the laſt yeer unto the ſeverall Petitions delivered to me upon this ſubject, That you would conſult and agree among your ſelves in what manner you would have the Court eſtabliſhed, moſt to your own contentments, and to the good of all theſe Northern parts, in ſuch a Legall way, as that it may not juſtly be excepted againſt, and I aſſure you, in the word of an honeſt Man, that you ſhall not blame me, if you have not full ſatisfaction in it.

Within a day or two ye ſhall have a particular Anſwer to your Peti-

tion, which ſhall be ſuch a One as I am confident will give you good ſatisfaction, and put you into ſuch a way, as, I hope, may produce good effects to the good of all this Kingdom.

His

HIS MAJESTIES ANSWER

To the aforesaid Petition of the Gentry, Ministers, and Freeholders of the County of YORK.

At the Court at YORK.

7. Aprilis, 1642.

His Majestie, according to His Promise made to you at the delivery of this Petition, hath commanded me to subscribe this His Answer.

IN the first place, He is glad to see, That what you say concerning the Relief of His distressed Subjects in *Ireland*, and

the Propagation of the true Religion amongſt vs, againſt all Superſtition of Popery, is onely to ſhew your Confidence in his princely VVord; wherein He again hath commanded me to aſſure you, That He will neither deceive your truſt, nor wrong Himſelf ſo much as not to be very punctuall in performance of the Engagements He hath already made concerning thoſe particulars, which beſides the performance of His VVord (which He holds moſt deer unto him) his own Inclinations naturally induce Him unto.

Now concerning the Prayer of your Petition, His Majeſtie doth graciouſly interpret, That your deſiring Him to declare ſuch

fit means and expedients as may take away all Diſtance and Miſunderſtandings betwixt His Majeſtie and His great Councell, is no otherwiſe then to have the more authentique ground, and the better direction which way to carry your ſelves in your Addreſſes to the Parliament for that effect. And therefore His Majeſtie aſſures you, That not onely the beſt, but (as He conceives) the ſole way for this good Underſtanding between His Majeſtie and His Parliament (which He aſſures you that He no leſſe deſires then your ſelves) is, That the Parliament will take His Majeſties Meſſage of the twentieth of January laſt into conſideration ſpeedily, ſeriouſly, and effectually; and that the *Militia*

of

of this Kingdom may be setled by Act of Parliament, according to His Majesties explanation of His Answer concerning the *Militia*, which He made in the Answer He returned to both Houses, upon the Petition presented to Him the 26. of March last. And therefore His Majestie desires you, to take those Answers and that Message into your serious Consideration, and thereupon to proceed (according to the intimation in your Petition) in your Addresses to the Parliament, as you shall judge fittest for the good of this Kingdom, and the expressions of your Duty and Affection to His Majesties Person and State.

Signed by Master Secretary Nicholas.

TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY. CAMBRIDGE

FINIS.